The Library of Congress'

EARLY STATE RECORDS PROJECT

converted from the original microfilm held by the
Vincent C. Immel Law Library, Saint Louis University

through the generous support of a grant from the

Council on Library and Information Resources

No. 107

To the President of the United States.

SIR,

The undersigned, inhabitants of the Mississippi Territory, residing west of Pearl river, beg leave respectfully to call the attention of your Excellency to a subject which they conceive of primary importance to themselves immediately, and to their posterity in future—to wit: The management and conduct of the Register of the Land Office for this district, in disposing of the Lands of the United States.

We cheerfully take a pride in acknowledging the accommodating disposition of the officers [illegible] in the disposal of the public lands, and the impartial manner with which they [illegible] in the execution and administration of the laws, in this respect, tended to [illegible] titles derived under the authority of [illegible]; but we are sorry to be compelled to declare, that the conduct of the present Register, NICHOLAS GRAY, in [illegible] respective duties of that office has had a contrary tendency, and produces the [illegible] his fees and conduct have been extorsive, vexatious, partial, and oppressive: Extorsive, [illegible] he has charged fees for selling land, which, by law, he is not entitled—Vexatious, [illegible] tracts of land sundry times, as forfeited, before forfeited, and at [illegible] offered at public sale—Partial, because he sells to some men, or set of men, in a manner [illegible] sell to others—Oppressive, by reason of the expense and trouble the parties are [illegible] his errors rectified; that his conduct has, and will be the cause of much litigation, [illegible]; and finally, that he has opened a door of speculation, by encouraging and allowing, in contradiction, by law, on applications to enter and re-enter lands, not contemplated by the [illegible] of the law, or the practice of his predecessors.

We, therefore, most respectfully solicit your Excellency to take such measures as in your wisdom [illegible] will be best calculated to ascertain the correctness of facts of which we complain, and to prevent a repetition of them.